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Check Your Radiation Ratings

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Check Your Radiation Ratings

by Kay Dodds

"WITH rings on her fingers and bells on her toes"—who has not heard of her? She's a well-known character, but she doesn't go to Iowa State. For if she did, there would be but one or two rings on her fingers, and she'd leave the bells in the campanile.

Being a typical Iowa Stater, the ring she would wear would be a precious gem, a semi-precious gem, or perhaps no gem at all. Gems which are spectacular she would leave for evening; those which are small but beautiful she would probably wear every day as she would her watch.

If it is her engagement ring there is naturally but one finger on which she will wear it. Otherwise, she usually chooses the right hand. Mademoiselle shows very bad taste if she wears her gem stone on the index or middle finger. Some time in antiquity, the "ring finger" was appointed, and today not even the little finger has come up to the "ring finger's" favored position.

If our lady has no cameo ring, the figure should face toward other people when the hand is down.

Mademoiselle should know something about her gem if she is to get the most pleasure from it. Gems have high value or low value according to hardness, brilliance, beauty, durability, and rarity. Diamonds head the list since they have all of these qualities. Other precious gems are rubies and emeralds. Although not a gem, the pearl is included in this group.

A few years ago, a woman was ashamed to wear anything but a precious gem. Today, semi-precious stones speak for themselves in the best of company. No tint of the rainbow is missing. Some of these stones can even play the roles of the precious gems creditably.

The tourmaline, serves as a copy of the emerald. A good tourmaline is even a wiser buy than a poor emerald, since the latter has many flaws. There may be perfect rubies and perfect diamonds, but a perfect emerald doesn't exist. The most costly emerald will have a few flaws. The tourmaline, much purer and having greater brilliancy than the emerald, deserves a good setting.

Diamonds have many under-studies, none of them as hard—consequently they become scratched and dull more readily. The white zincon carries as much brilliancy, being doubly refracting. The zincon can also be honey yel-

low, green, blue, cinnamon, or electric blue. White sapphires enact the diamond part with as much charm. A white topaz is another good imitator.

The true yellow diamond, often called the Canary diamond, is very rare. The golden colored zircon, the yellow chrysoberyl, and the pale yellow topaz and the yellow sapphire substitute well for the "Canary".

The ruby, that drop of pigeon's blood, has a double, the ruby-red spinel. Its resemblance is so close that it reaches the higher price levels of semi-precious stones.

A garnet, well chosen, not only satisfies the "ruby-minded", but will prove a gem in its own right as well.

Pearls are beauty at the highest price. In recent years, cultured pearls have been introduced, which cost less. No woman should scoff at wearing them; they are as true as the natural pearl and can be detected only by microscope and X-ray.

If mademoiselle has pearls, she should wear them to preserve their beauty. Pearls have a tendency to dry out, and they receive the necessary moisture from the skin.

An opal is beauty at its lowest price. Many superstitions have arisen from this stone, but according to one gemologist, "Stones are not lucky or unlucky in themselves, but they bare the souls and expose the characters and temperaments of all who wear or look upon them."

Now, more than ever, jewels are almost a wardrobe necessity. Necklaces are becoming with sports sweaters. Opaque beads, pearls, corals, jade, and inconspicuous bright pendants give the best effects. Great grandmother's locket is up to the last minute in style.

And watch those huge brooches! If the lady mentioned above could lay hand on a smooth rust cornelian or a large turquoise to fasten her silk neck scarf, she would gladly throw most of her hand jewelry to the winds.

For the formals in winter quarter, Mademoiselle will bring out the shining jewels—anything from rhinestones through the whole gamut of more precious stones, colored or white. She will search the town to find a tierra to match those twin bracelets or that dangerously fragile necklace. She might even conduct a miniature treasure hunt to procure some glittering shoe buckles.

Now, with a flash, she's off to the ball.

But as a last reminder to our lady, let's repeat that little phrase, "quality not quantity", then let her dazzle the night away.

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